

BLACK STUDIES PROGRAM - WHY AND WHAT.

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We have only to consider the contrast between experiences of the many

ethnic groups, once minorities, and the American Negro, always the minority;

The one, living out a natural period of transition from Old world to

New, protected in their right to be different - to retain and

nurture their national traditions and cultures, until new generations were able to step out as fully indoctrinated and integrated members of American society....

....always after "strangeness" or "difference" had worn off...

....frequently when family name had been changed, along with Old World clothing, language, cultural practices...

...Always with the blessing of the Anglo-Saxon majority that had exploited, and now welcomed the new breed

*(Pigmentation doesn't disappear so easily or readily)*

A regular experience in seminars in all parts of the country, whether

of business, professional or government workers and managers, with names posted around the table

....1 - 2 - 3 generations removed from the Old World Culture, Now part of the Establishment!!!

The Negro, the black..... has singular experience a handicap *(shared in lesser measure by others)*

1. Bereft from the start of any claim to homogeneity, by recruiting, scattering, scrambling members of various African tribes being introduced into Western slavery....no common language, varied cultural attributes.
2. This aggravated by studied program of preventing the emergence of basic leadership within the slave group, for obvious reasons, sanctioning only that kind of spokesmanship which echoed the Master's line.
3. Bereft of religious traditions, practices, beliefs - and force-fed a watered down, diluted version of the Master's faith; not dynamic, not revolutionary, not militant, but a doctrine of passivism and other-worldliness
4. Bereft of cultural traditions, ceremonials, rituals, practices, as "pagan" and threatening to white society and ~~its~~ its false tranquility.

Note that all of these deprivations represent the guide lines by which all peoples of the earth have maintained their social disciplines and conducted an orderly society. . . . .

.....all these deprivations leaving millions of people without positive

direction and purpose, disciplines, aspirations, even dreams of an unknown thing we call "The Future".

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5. Then, it was declared illegal to give slaves an education, incentive, a dynamic faith in God, in themselves or in other men, even their own.

...."An enlightened slave is a dangerous slave."

6. ...And the final deadly thrust was to destroy the sanctity, even the actual entity of the family....

- a. By sexual invasion with impunity, by the master, his sons, his overseer, any white man....producing in mass scale the racial mixing that is supposed to threaten the very existence of the white race!!!!
- b. by physical separation by way of the slave block, of any members of the family, at the master's whim.

No where in the record of man's existence, and <sup>the record of</sup> his inhumanity to man, has any group of people had to submit to such a program of emasculation, total ignorance of its past and culture, destruction of self-image and self-respect, stultification of spiritual, social and intellectual development, and the malevolently applied course of mass deprivation and denigration. And this, for 250 years!

Then, 107 years ago, barely four generations, it was declared that these people would be freed from physical bondage, the implication being that they would be admitted fully into the society of man! *Howard Fast "Freedom Road"*

You and I know even in our own brief lifetimes, how illusory was this implied promise. Over a century later, we are fighting on many fronts to gain even a part of the freedoms granted readily to white ethnic minorities, as their first American-born generations appear upon the scene.

Of what value to you, to me, and our children to know about:....

- ...Black Culture in Africa, currently recognized as habitat of first humans!!
- ...Blacks in Early American exploration - with Balboa, with Pizarro, with Fr. Marquette (Chicago's first permanent settler), with Lewis & Clark. (What value of any cultural history to its people?)

...Blacks in the Revolutionary War, at Bunker Hill, <sup>Boston Crumple</sup> at Valley Forge (Peter Salem, Prince Hall et al) White speak of "Our Forefathers!!!" What about ours

...Blacks in War of 1812, with Perry on Lake Erie and with Jackson at New Orleans, where their rifle saved the day.

*Kings  
Ghana  
Mali  
Songhai  
Sculpture*

*1941  
Harlem  
1949  
Basil  
"Lost Cities"*

Hand. Harper Bu. NY '41  
Dav. Little. Brown Co. Boston '39

Of what value, to know about.....

Blacks in the Civil War, appr. 300,000 of them, fighting for their own freedom,, for a reluctant government and in the face of fanatical former masters

Blacks in the taming of the West and in meeting the problems of the Mexican Border where "Black Jack" Pershing made his reputation....who knows about or cares about the glorious ~~history~~ fighting records of the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry ... all Black troops.

or about the Black cowboys and prospectors, the explorers and the innovators, the inventors the poets and the artists.....

....of what value are these things to all manner of white men and women

that they insist that their children know of their own cultural history??

Of what value? ? ? ?

1. It gives the lie to generations of detractors of the black men in the Western world. ~~Myths - People without a past or culture~~ (Howard Fast "Freedom Road")  
to the Jensens and the Mogmihands and their legions of predecessors.....

....to all those who would deny our manhood, our intelligence, our initiative and bravery, our integrity. <sup>who offer naught but contempt, insult, vilification to</sup> "nothing" people!

2. It gives to us the same elevating and encouraging knowledge of ourselves, understanding, self-esteem that have spurred on the youth of all other groups, for all the preceeding generations of civilized progress.....that substance upon which dreams are built, and are brought to realization.

- 3 It broadens out the perspective of history in such dimensions that Truth emerges and gives greater meaning to the Whole.

It is of that kind of Value, and more.

Do we want this just for ego satisfaction of blacks....or to create new academic posts for black scholars who fear competition with the whitescholar???

A thousand times No!!!

Rather, to share with the white world the truth of our past attainment, as measures of our promise to the future of a united, strong, honest and Emancipated America.....

....The role that honest History is supposed to contribute to a civilized society.

— Then... a subjective assessment? What is The Past to me?  
" " Africa " "